



Ho-Chunk Nation honors seven code talkers



Marlon WhiteEagle
Editor

On Friday, December 13, 2013, the Ho-Chunk Nation Division of Veteran Affairs posthumously honored seven Ho-Chunk Nation code talkers with a private ceremony at the Ho-Chunk Convention Center in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Silver medals were presented to the family members of Bill Whitebear, Bill



Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the Ho-Chunk Nation and 32 other tribes at a ceremony held in Washington D.C.

Mike, Jesse Mike, Benjamin Winneshiek, Clifford Blackdeer, Emanuel “Soup” Thundercloud, and Howard Littlejohn.

The Ho-Chunk Nation received a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of the code talkers at ceremony held in Washington D.C. on November 20, 2012. Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer, Ho-Chunk Nation Vice President Heather Cloud, Executive Director of Heritage Preservation Robert Mann, Ho-Chunk Nation Division of Veteran Affairs Director Sandra Winneshiek, and family and friends attended the Gold Medal award ceremony at the U.S. Capitol building.

The Washington D.C. event was attended by congressional leaders: House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), U.S. Representative Ron Kind (D-WI), U.S. Representative Tom Cole (R-OK), Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Minority Leader, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and Senate Majority Leader, Senator Harry Reid (D-NV). Each gave remarks on the 33 tribal nations being awarded the Congressional Gold medal.

The Silver Medal award ceremony kicked off with an introduction by Executive Director of Heritage Preservation Robert Mann, who also served as the event’s emcee, followed by the presentation of the colors by the Ho-Chunk Nation American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries: Andrew Blackhawk Post 129 and Auxiliary of Black River Falls, Joseph White Post 442 of Wisconsin Rapids, and Sanford White Eagle Post 556 and Auxiliary of Baraboo. The posts marched and presented the colors while Semper Fidelis was played.

Ho-Chunk Nation singers rendered the Ho-Chunk Flag Song, followed by the



Cheryl Thundercloud, Clayton Winneshiek, Clyde Blackdeer, Robert Mann, Levi Blackdeer, Joseph WhiteEagle, Sharon Mike Prusia and her escort, Elliot Littlejohn accepted silver and gold medals on behalf of Ho-Chunk code talkers.

playing of Taps by Jackson County Veteran Service Officer Randy Bjerke. The colors were posted.

Ho-Chunk tribal elder and Traditional court member, Morgan WhiteEagle, offered a prayer for the ceremony’s dinner. Guest chose either a chicken or roast beef plated dinner served by convention center staff.

While the dinner was served and guests were eating, the Congressional Gold medal award ceremony that was held in Washington D.C. was played on two projectors. The guest hoop,

hollered, and clapped when the award was presented to the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Majority Leader Senator Reid had the most memorable and moving speech of the congressional leaders. He said, “According to firsthand accounts from the pilgrims, who arrived to this continent, Native Americans did not farm the land so this wasn’t truly their land. According to the pioneers who pushed past the Mississippi, Native Americans were not civilized, so they didn’t truly own the land. According to the prospectors who rushed

for the hills of Nevada, California and even Alaska, Native Americans did not speak English so they did not truly own the land.

“Strangers had forced the Native peoples from their lands slaughtered their game, stifled their religions outlawed their ceremonies and ravaged their communities...in the late 1800s, the United States government forced Native American children to attend English only boarding schools. Native children were torn from their families, taken far from home in boxcars and buggies, given English names, forced to cut their hair short and teachers beat the children with leather straps when they spoke

Continued on Page 2



Guest speaker, Myrle Thompson, at the Silver medal award ceremony. Thompson was a crypto operator in Korea.

INSIDE SCOOP...

Letters	Page 2
Health	Page 3
News	Page 4-7
2013 Review	Page 8-13
Notices	Page 14
Entertainment	Page 15
Good News	Page 16

Want something special placed in the Hocak Worak? Limited space is available so send your request in early. Submissions will be handled on a first come first serve basis.

Dear Editor

I am concerned with the present and future state of our environment. For the past couple of years, we have seen a sand mining boom and the staunch permit push for the largest iron mine in the world located north near Upson, Wisconsin.

I realize the need for sand in the natural gas business as well as the need for iron in domestic and foreign industry. However, while these are temporary ventures creating temporary jobs and temporary revenue to Wisconsin or local counties there stands a horrific impact on the land and water.

Some have continued to give into the mining companies that have encroached and continue to encroach on our lands. While we put up with encroachment and few do not, we are handing over the most precious resource, water. Sand mines use tons of water on a daily basis; and tailings remain. Tailings, or waste sand and water stand in ponds. The ponds are left for us to clean up and to maintain with no plan of how they are ever going to be eradicated and the land reclaimed.

Water is life. The concept, water is life, is simple, true, and something to stand up for and defend. I am asking you to stand in solidarity with me and be a steward of the land and water. I am asking you to stand up for the animals, the fish, and birds that cannot speak for themselves. While some may think it outrageous to stand up for animals, fish

and birds; I would be remiss if I didn't say, "We are all related."

Life is a circle; whatever we do to the circle, we do to ourselves. We need to ask ourselves what kind of earth are we giving our children and grandchildren. Will the water be safe to drink, to swim, and to enjoy? We need to educate ourselves about what is really happening with these mines, we need to start being critical of mining companies and those in power, ultimately, we need to act.

Sincerely,

Andi J. Cloud, M.Ed.
Migizi Advocates for Turtle Island (MATI)
Founder & Lead Advocate

Dear Editor

I was impressed and proud of the Ho-Chunk Casino and its staff for bringing a grade "A" performer to our flagship casino, albeit it was a little risqué. I recently accompanied you, as your guest, to the headliner event, "Ashanti." Frankly, I knew very little about the artist prior to attending the event. However, she had important messages to share with our people and young adults; it was interesting that she used music to perceivably heal situations that she experienced, like domestic violence and infidelity. She appeared to be genuinely happy to be in Wisconsin, specifically at Ho-Chunk for the first time. I enjoyed the diverse audience, as it ranged from non-native, senior citizen high rollers to Ho-Chunk elders to Chicago dwellers to

rural Ho-Chunk tribal members, like me. However, the best part – was seeing our casino staff provide the best customer service that I have seen! I am excited to see what our Ho-Chunk facilities have calendared for entertainment in 2014.

Sincerely,
Amanda L. WhiteEagle
#4657

Code talkers

Continued from Page 1

their Native languages. The government told them their language had no value, but the children held onto their language, culture and history at great personal risk.

"In this nation's hour of greatest need these same Native American languages proved to have great value in the early years of World War II...Why would Native Americans, who had been robbed of their land and their culture agree to use their precious language to protect the country that had neglected and abused them for centuries? As one Navajo Native American code talker by the name of Chester Nez put it, 'Somebody has got to defend this country, somebody has to defend freedom.'"

Near the end of the dinner, two cakes were carted around the room for all to see prior to being served. One cake displayed the Congressional Gold medal with the words: Congressional Gold Medal Presentation Ceremony. The other cake displayed the Ho-Chunk Nation flag.

The Ho-Chunk Nation singers then rendered the Thank You (for the food) Song.

A welcome address was given by Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer. Greendeer said he was humbled by the opportunity to speak at an occasion that honored military veterans because he did not serve in the military. He asked the family members of the seven code talkers to stand and be recognized. Greendeer also spoke about the importance of the code talkers' sacrifice and the need for tribal members to learning the Ho-Chunk language.

Ho-Chunk Nation Vice President Heather Cloud gave remarks about her experience attending the Congressional Gold medal ceremony in Washington D.C. Cloud, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, said the code talkers' quick transmission and accuracy saved many lives during WWII and Korea.

U.S. Representative Ron Kind was invited to speak but unable to attend the event however his address from the Washington D.C. event was heard over dinner. Mann jokingly said, "He probably would have shared the same message anyway."

Ho-Chunk Nation tribal elder and Air Force veteran, Myrle Thompson, served as the guest speaker. Thompson was a "crypto operator" during the Korean War. She emphasized, "I fluently speak, read, and write our Ho-Chunk language. I proudly possess all the arts of language, tribal traditions, values, and social graces."

Thompson continued, "We did not talk about our work and I suspect the same was expected of these honored tonight. Many, many lives have been touched by "Code Talkers" from our tribes, which we can only attempt to fathom. In closing, the Ho-Chunk Nation holds it veterans in the highest regard and this is a bittersweet memory of our Ho-Chunk Army Veteran Code Talkers."

State Senator, Jennifer Shilling, of Wisconsin's 32 District was present to address the Ho-Chunk Nation at the



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Jon Scocos, Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer, and Wisconsin State Senator Jennifer Shilling pose for a photo with the gold and silver medals presented to Ho-Chunk code talkers.

1. Francis Decorah	19. Truman Lowe
2. Marlene Cleveland	Rhonda Funmaker
4. David Radtke	Charlene Steele
5. Marion White	20. Michael Goze
Joann Jones	Sara Abbott
Robert Goze	22. Barbara Pierce
6. Roy Cassiman	23. Michael Day
7. Carolyn White Eagle	Antoinette Horak
Cecelia Lonetree	Edward Perry
Eunice Mallory	24. Franceita Decorah
Phyllis Amendariz	25. Beulah Sayers
8. Ona Garvin	Nela Stacy
Bonnie Hanson	Julia Little Wolf
9. Betty White	26. Gary Hall
Beverly Whitewing	Wilbert Cleveland
10. Janice Goldman	Elaine Nakai
Avery Lonetree	Myrna Thompson
Douglas Greengrass	28. Wade Blackdeer
11. Patricia Filipowicz	Berna Big Thunder-Hindsley
12. Benjamin Decorah	29. Nadine Sieber
14. Fred Decorah	Faye Larsen
Hattie Walker	Rosalie Two Bulls
Roberta Decorah	30. Cecelia Rave
15. Cleo Mountain	Darlene Funmaker
Joanne La Mere	Barbara Nyhan
16. Sharon Whitebear	31. Janice Rice
Joyce White Eagle	Harry Cloud
17. Edward Whitewater	Estelle Whitewing
Peggy Crowley	
18. Sidney Lewis	
Sherill Worthy	



Ho-Chunk Nation Division of Veteran Affairs Director Sandra Winneshiek, Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer, and Executive Director of Heritage Preservation Robert Mann after presenting Greendeer with a pendleton

code talker event. She talked about how the occasion would allow school children to learn about native languages used as code during WWII and Korea. Shilling was thankful for the invitation to attend.

Next, Mann explained that there was a red carpet down the center aisle for the family members to walk down on their way to accept the Silver medal. Joseph WhiteEagle (standing in for Martina Joy Little-boy) accepted for Bill Whitebear. Sharon Mike Prusia accepted for Bill Mike. Levi Blackdeer accepted for Jesse Mike. Clayton Winneshiek accepted for Benjamin Winneshiek. Clyde Blackdeer accepted for Clifford Blackdeer. Cheryl Thundercloud accepted for Emanuel Thundercloud. Elliot Littlejohn accepted for Howard Littlejohn.

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary John Scocos was on hand to present Certificates of Commendation on behalf of the State of Wisconsin, signed by Governor Scott Walker, to each family member. Secretary Scocos also gave the closing remarks for the occasion.

Ho-Chunk Nation tribal elder and Traditional court member, Andy Thundercloud, composed a Code talker song for the occasion. The song was sung and family members danced with their Silver medals.

The Ho-Chunk Nation American Legion Posts retired the colors, marking the closing of the Silver medal award ceremony. The Ho-Chunk Nation singers rendered the Love One Another Song closing the night.

Ho-Chunk Woga to provide Christmas gifts to children throughout state

Ken Luchterhand
Staff Writer

Many gifts sit along a table in the Social Services building, placed in bags with labels.

They're ready to be delivered soon, to be in the hands of Ho-Chunk children throughout the state.

No, it's not a staging area for Santa Claus. Instead, it's Ho-Chunk Woga, the annual tradition conducted by Ho-Chunk Social Services.

"The tags are all filled," said Jacqueline Moen-Kadec, one of the organizers of the project. "They are ready to be delivered before Christmas."

Because of Ho-Chunk Woga, Social Services staff will be delivering 141 gifts this year to children and young adults who are ages 0-22. The children receiving the gifts are those who have received services through Ho-Chunk Social Services.

The gifts come to Social Services from a variety of ways. The first is that people will take "tags." A tag will have the gender and the age of a child written on it, to which

the donor purchases a present in the price range of \$20 to \$25.

Another way to help with the project is to donate money directly to Ho-Chunk Woga.

"We have had significant, much appreciated, donations from tribal members," said HCN Child and Family Services Director Valerie Blackdeer.

"Every year we are amazed at the results," Moen-Kadec said. "Different departments pooled their money together and we received some significant community donations."

Another example is a "Soup Day," conducted by the Ho-Chunk Clinic and Pharmacy staff at the HCN House of Wellness in Baraboo, in which the proceeds were donated to Ho-Chunk Woga.

Lisa Bargender of Social Services has been the contact person for the Wisconsin Dells area and she has been great in getting people to take the tags and donate the gifts. She also brings the presents up to Black River Falls where they can be prepared for distribution.



Some of the staff who make Ho-Chunk Woga possible are (from left) CPS Social Worker Anne Burns; Prevention Social Worker Lori Stellflue; Independent Living Skills Coordinator Liza Deer; CPS Social Worker Sharalyn Hartley; CPS Social Worker Hope Williams; Prevention Social Worker Kristin Narva; and Support Staff Supervisor Ken Freeman.

"It's been great, especially considering the short time frame between Thanksgiving and Christmas this year," Moen-Kadec said.

The presents should arrive at homes of children sometime during the week up to the

day of Christmas.

HCN Social Services has received some inquiries about how children can get on the list to receive Christmas gifts. Unfortunately, if the child hasn't received services from Social Services, they

don't qualify. However, many communities have their own programs, such as "Project Christmas" in Black River Falls in which the children may be able to receive donated gifts, she said.

Important Notice for Behavioral Health Clients:

The Ho-Chunk Health Department will begin using its newer electronic medical records starting January 1, 2014.

- There may be a longer wait to see a provider.

Please be patient as we work to improve your quality of health care.

FOOT EXAMS AND NAIL CARE WILL BE OFFERED AT THE WITTENBERG TAU ON A MONTHLY BASIS



January 21st
February 18th

(OR AS NEEDED BY APPOINTMENT)

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

For more information or questions please call:

Community Health Nurse Judy
715-253-3820 or 715-893-3075

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be Jan. 3rd which will be published on Jan. 10th. Please contact Enrollment at ext. 1015 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

What are your 2014 New Year's Resolutions?

If you want to quit smoking for your 2014 New Year's Resolution we can help. The Ho-Chunk Health Care Center and House of Wellness are offering Freedom from Smoking classes starting in January. The Freedom from Smoking program is a 7 week course to help you quit smoking. Within that 7 weeks' time there are 8 classes all designed to help you on your path to be a non-smoker. The classes will be at the Ho-Chunk Health Care Center in Black River Falls starting Wednesday January 8th from 10:00-12:00. The House of Wellness in Baraboo will be starting Wednesday January 8th from 1:00-3:00. There are also classes available in early spring in Wittenberg, contact the CHN Judy for more details. For Ho-Chunk Nation employee's interested in attending classes there is Executive Order 07-21-12 for



paid administrative leave with Supervisors approval. For more information you can contact Holly Rodenberg or Louise Voss at the Ho-Chunk Health Care Center 715-284-9851, Christine Swanson at the House of Wellness 608-356-1240, or Judy Heubel in Wittenberg at 715-253-2382. Class sizes are limited so call early to reserve your spot.

The Hocak Worak is a periodical published twice monthly by the Ho-Chunk Nation. Editorials and articles appearing in the Hocak Worak are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the Hocak Worak staff or the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The Hocak Worak encourages the submission of letters to the Editor. All letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author. Letters are subject to editing for grammar, length, malicious and libelous content.

The Hocak Worak reserves the right to reject any advertising, material, or letters submitted for publication. The submission of articles, poetry, artwork and photos is encouraged. The Editor makes the sole decision of what is published in the Hocak Worak. The Hocak Worak will not assume any responsibility for unsolicited material.

Submissions deadlines for the Hocak Worak are by 4:30 PM. We cannot guarantee the publication of submissions meeting these deadlines if the space is not available. No part of this publication may be produced without express written consent from the Editor.

EDITORMarlon WhiteEagle
STAFF WRITERKen Luchterhand
Administrative AssistantAnna Reichenbach

The Hocak Worak
is a member of:
The Native American
Journalist Association



HOCOK WORAK NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 667
Black River Falls, WI 54615
• PHONE: (800) 472-3089
• FAX: (715) 284-7852

• ONLINE:
www.ho-chunknation.com
www.hocakworak.com

Ribbon-cutting ceremony held for new dental clinic

Ken Luchterhand
Staff Writer

Praise and stories of success were shared Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Black River Falls Dental Center.

It is the Family Health Center (FHC) of Marshfield's Clinic's ninth dental center in the state. The property on which the new dental center has been built is owned by the Ho-Chunk Nation and leased to Marshfield Clinic.

People who attended heard from the speakers how the new center will contribute to health and a healthy economy. But most importantly, it will provide a service to many low-income families who would otherwise go without dental care.

Dedication speakers' remarks repeatedly included words like gratitude, collaboration, partnership, living the mission, train and retain, and raised speculation about what



Members of the Marshfield Clinic staff, Jackson County government and Ho-Chunk Nation stand with scissors in hand, ready to cut the ribbon at the Black River Falls Dental Center dedication ceremony.

County and beyond. Partners include FHC, Marshfield Clinic, the Ho-Chunk Nation, Jackson County Public Health Department, Jackson County and City of Black River Falls.

Family Health Center Director Greg Nycz emceed the dedication program.

"Many stars had to align to be where we're at today," said Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer.

Greendeer said Dr. Alec Thundercloud, M.D., former Ho-Chunk health division medical director, was instrumental in being able to lay the foundation for establishing the dental clinic. Thundercloud saw the opportunity with Marshfield Clinic for a dental clinic to treat people and train dental professionals.

It is because of Dr. Thundercloud's perseverance that the dental clinic has become a reality, he said.

"Using some of the space on our campus gives all of us the ability to serve more people," Greendeer said.

Besides education, the plan also is to provide incentive to stay and give back to the community, Greendeer said.

"The future is unwritten but it's with optimism we move ahead," Greendeer said. "This dental clinic will help the entire area with good-paying jobs, in addition to health

benefits. It's a great view of what the future might be collaborating with many entities to provide great service to the entire community."

Marshfield Clinic President Brian Ewert outlined the 40-year Family Health Center/Marshfield Clinic relationship and dental center history. FHC recognized dental needs were not met for low-income people, who are some of the most vulnerable people, which led to FHC establishing dental clinics in partnership with Marshfield Clinic.

"We've moved toward providing total care for the patient," Ewert said. He said jokingly that doctors have now found out that oral health affects overall health "since the mouth is part of the body."

Many chronic diseases consume vast amounts of care and are exacerbated by poor dental care, so addressing dental health means decreasing total cost of care, he explained.

"The patient gets immediate benefit of not having dental pain or dental infection, but the entire health care system benefits because patients' medical needs decrease as well," Ewert said.

An added benefit to the profession is that the Black River Falls dental clinic will be a training site for new profes-

sionals in the dental field.

Nycz said working with the Ho-Chunk, coming onto their land and becoming a good guest is a chance to "execute our mission of leaving no one behind."

Putting a permanent dental capacity there can help the Ho-Chunk Nation keep dentists and care teams in the community, and build interest in finding future dentists, dental hygienists and other staff.

The next speaker was Marshfield Clinic Division of Education Director Dr. Matthew Jansen, who said that in July 2014, the first group of dental residents will be at the Marshfield campus and will rotate to other sites, including Black River Falls.

"Oral health has an impact on general health so teaching holistically is very important," Dr. Jansen said. "Working with the Ho-Chunk to train people locally and encourage them to stay in the community is a goal."

Jackson County Department of Health & Human Services Director Beth Smetana said she has been waiting for this day for 21 years. She told of her passion for federally-qualified health centers, her journey back to Jackson County and the vision for a dental clinic. She knew it would take much cooperation from many

people.

"I'm so very glad others did not give up," Smetana said.

She said the nearest dental clinic accepting Medical Assistance was just outside the county, and that one has a three-month waiting list. When people call for an appointment they are told "don't bother" because the demand is so great. But with this new facility in Black River Falls, that has now changed.

Jackson County Board Chairman Dennis Eberhardt said the dental center has been in process for a long time and there were a lot of questions when the notion of a dental clinic was first raised. But they continued to pursue the opportunity.

Eberhardt thanked the partners and pointed out economic advantages with the center bringing people into the county for care and economic development. He shared county statistics dramatically pointing out the need for dental care.

"It is quite evident this facility is needed, we're extremely happy to be part of it and it's just starting," said Eberhardt.

After the speakers' addresses, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held, with tours of the new facility.



Ho-Chunk Nation Jon Greendeer tells the audience how the dental clinic was the vision of Dr. Alec Thundercloud.

greater good could come from the hard work that made this possible.

The \$4.4 million 12,600-square-foot facility was built in six months on land owned by the Ho-Chunk Nation, with Miron Construction, HDR Architecture in St. Paul, Minn.; and assistance from the Clinic's Facilities & Grounds.

Four dentists and 23 staff treat people of all income levels, meeting needs in Jackson

Keep Season's Greetings from Turning into Season's Emergencies

Submitted by James P. Judge, Media & Public Relations Manager, BluePearl Veterinary Partners

Doctors from BluePearl Veterinary Partners are urging people to practice caution over the holiday season as there is typically a significant uptick in pet-related emergencies. Many of those emergencies are avoidable.

Here are some safety tips from doctors at BluePearl:

- Keep holiday decorations out of reach. Ingestion of metal or glass ornaments,

ribbons and tinsel is a medical emergency. They can cause severe damage to the gastrointestinal tract.

- Place holiday plants high off the ground. Ivy, holly, poinsettia, lilies and evergreens can be toxic to animals if ingested.
- Seal garbage bags and place them in tightly covered containers to prevent pets from getting into something that could injure them.
- Keep pets away from turkey bones, chicken bones and ham bones that can splinter

and perforate the intestinal tract.

- Keep your pets on their normal diets. Many spices and foods that are safe for humans are not safe for animals. Onions, garlic, chocolate, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, the sugar substitute xylitol and raw or undercooked food can be poisonous to pets.
- Make sure as guests and deliveries come and go pets remain safely inside. Doors left open can result in your pet being hit by a car.

- If traveling with pets, make sure they are comfortable. Try to get them acclimated when they are young by taking them on trips. If needed, your veterinarian can assist with remedies to calm your pet.

"From all of us here at BluePearl Veterinary Partners, we wish you and your family a wonderful and safe holiday season," said Dr. Jennifer Welser, chief medical officer of BluePearl. "While we are always here to help, we truly hope preventable problems



with pets are kept to the absolute minimum this holiday season."

Ho-Chunk want school board role

By Cassandra Colson, Reprint with permission of the Jackson County Chronicle

The Ho-Chunk Nation is seeking representation on the Black River Falls School Board to provide input in the district’s decision-making process.

Ho-Chunk Nation member and former BRF School Board member Tina Boisen lobbied the board at its Nov. 18 meeting to add an additional advisory member to the now seven-person body.

The member, who legally could not cast votes, will help serve as a bridge between the Nation and school district, which has a 20-percent Native American student population, she said.

“I think that would really benefit the school district,” said Boisen, who was appointed to fill a board seat in 2012 and lost a re-election bid in spring 2013.

The school board already had considered a request from Boisen to add an advisory member last school year but opted against the move.

The board instead recently changed a policy to add a spot for a Ho-Chunk Nation representative on its curriculum and instruction and policy committees, Superintendent Shelly Severson said after last week’s school board meeting.

All committee members — which include three school board members, a community member and now a Nation representative — have voting

power and could have an impact on recommendations that are made to the full school board, Severson said.

However, Boisen, who was serving on the policy committee but resigned last month, noted the full school board typically had questions about Nation policy and procedure at meetings when she served.

School board member Axel Dressler said her input was important when she served as a board member.

“You were very valuable being on the board,” he said at last week’s meeting, which was held at the Nation’s executive office building.

Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Director of Education Adrienne Thunder said at the meeting she has been meeting

with Severson, which is helpful for both groups.

An advisory board member could formalize the already positive relationship, she said.

“I think the discussions have been very productive,” Thunder said. “I think the board also benefits from opportunities for further dialogue.”

Severson said after the school board meeting she feels board diversity is important for the district’s decision-making process. However, she did express caution over adding an advisory position because other groups could make additional requests.

She also noted the board used to elect members from geographic areas in the dis-

trict but changed that to at-large positions more than five years ago.

It would seem to be easier to elect a Ho-Chunk Nation member when the positions were elected from geographic areas, like the town of Brockway, but there rarely were candidates who ran, she said.

“I think it’s important that our board be as diverse a group as possible because I truly think you come up with better solutions from a range of perspectives. I like the idea of diversity on the board,” Severson said.

“I do get concerned that if another group were to ask for representation.”

The school board will consider the request at its December meeting.

“Ki Jire Nagu” Healing Center

The “**Ki Jire Nagu**” **Healing Center** project began with a General Council Resolution dated 10-11-03J and 8 Resolutions since that date and a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on January, 2010 in which a contract was initiated which **resulted in the Comprehensive Master Plan for the Healing Center.** There have been regular briefings with the Legislative Development Committee. **The current critical issue is to have an RFP issued to select a Project Administrator** to conduct strategic planning, develop a business plan, explore a strategic funding plan covering sources such as private investors, grant funding, foundations and private charities, develop a marketing plan, furnish quarterly fiscal reports on current/future projections based on third party billing and private pay, to name a few of the RFP and to provide a time frame to complete all areas outlined in the Comprehensive Master Plan.

The Healing Center Workgroup by Resolution dated 08-20-13E which reads as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature, pursuant to its authority under the Constitution and tribal law, hereby establishes the Healing Center Workgroup, consisting of, any interested Legislators, or other Legislative employees or staff designated by Legislators; any Executive Branch employees or staff so authorized to participate; and community members; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislature hereby approves the Healing Center Workgroup as well as representative from Traditional Court and Clan Mothers to oversee the planning and impetus to move the Original Resolution 10-11-03J; use and management of all previous documents and Comprehensive Master Plan and all other documents developed in regard to the Healing Center and; furthermore; to establish a budget by utilizing funds specifically designated for the Healing Center through the Ho-Chunk Nation Tax Code; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the workgroup shall report on their activity and progress to the Legislature after each meeting; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the workgroup created herein shall not be considered a Public Body under the Nation’s Open Meetings ACT and shall not be required to adhere to Quorum or meeting posting requirements; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Healing Center Workgroup is authorized to begin meeting upon adoption of this resolution.

The HEALING CENTER WORKGROUP has been meeting monthly to present a planning budget which will address the greatest needs identified in the Comprehensive Master Plan to Legislature which was taken to Finance Committee on November 27, 2013. **The Legislature approved the budget presented by the Healing Center Workgroup.** The next issue that is being looked into is to designate land or find land for “Ki Jire Nagu” Healing Center which will take a joint effort with Healing Center Workgroup and Legislature. **The HEALING CENTER WORKGROUP will designate a STEERING COMMITTEE** to address those issues that arise that need immediate attention.

The vision statement for “Ki Jire Nagu” Healing Center is: **“Finding Peace Together as a Nation”** which captures the mission of the Healing Center. The **problem** that has been identified is: **“Our Hocak young people are losing their lives due to the effects of alcohol, drugs and other addictions.”**

The **solution** is: **To build a “safe and nurturing place” to assist our Hocak people by supporting their emotional, mental, physical and spiritual health by utilizing Native American traditions and beliefs along with individualized intervention.”**

When a group of Hocak members met much thought was given to assisting our relatives in overcoming trauma and addictions. The Hocak members that have worked for years with our relatives shared their personal experiences during the past years. Each person expressed their thoughts and concerns about the effects of substance abuse and trauma that has had a direct impact on their lives and their family.

The initial phase included looking at supportive data which showed the need to develop a **“safe place”** for Native People to deal with their own problems in a meaningful way by using our own traditional means. The planning phase included looking at what is the greatest need. The Hocak People used to live in villages where there was a connectedness to one another. In the Village concept, the taking care of one another was the primary purpose and each clan had a purpose for their existence and together they provided the necessities of the village. As meetings progressed it became apparent we were building a village and today the term used is “wrap around services” which when you think of the village we probably coined this term in our way of life.

WE (Hocak People) are visionary people and we possess this attribute without even trying and we had much success by using this skill. I can see a VILLAGE being built and by using our rich Hocak traditions and belief system and we will succeed in this endeavor. We can achieve this by living together for the common good of all, lending a helping hand, respecting one another and encouraging each other in a non-competitive manner.

The “Ki Jire Nagu” will be dedicated to all Hocak members who have lost loved ones and a commitment to making life better for those who are struggling with addictions and its effects. I want to thank all Hocak members who have been including this project in their prayers and those who have supported this project which include the Traditional Court and the Clan Mothers especially Morgan White Eagle and Myrtle Long. I want to give thanks to MAUNA for listening to our prayers offered on behalf of our Hocak People. I want to take this opportunity to thank President Jon Greendeer and current sitting Legislators who have begun to assist with this project with diligence and shared concern for Hocak members.

Respectfully written by “Manak suc jeiga” (Roberta Decorah) 1685

2nd Annual Youth and Family College Expo Recap

Submitted by Jordan Kappen

The goal is simple: Expose Ho-Chunk youth to college academic programs, through hands-on learning, while educating parents on the importance of college and the steps they can take to prepare their children for higher education.

The Ho-Chunk Education Department offered exposure to colleges and motivation at its Second Annual Youth and Family College Expo on December 14th, at the Tribal Office Building. Also, the HCN Family Services Program, along with the BRF Title VII PAC, teamed up with the Education Department to help make this event another success. Most of the audience were from Black River Falls, or traveled from Tomah, La Crosse, and Wisconsin Dells. Thanks to the support from several Youth and Learning Centers, staff from those areas transported youth to the event. Jordan Kappen, coordinated the event and was pleased that many more parents were in attendance at this year's event than last year. It was a pleasant surprise to see families making a day out of it.

"We're trying to give parents and youth access to resources that will help prepare them to go to college," said Kappen, a Recruitment and Pre-College Advisor in the Ho-Chunk Education Department.

"This event is different than other college fairs. Rather than students primarily collect information material from college booths, this event brings in specific academic programs from colleges to facilitate hands-on learning activities with the students and information that can help the parents. I really believe that it is never too early to expose kids to

information about college. It is good for students to know what's available to them early on in the college search process."

The daylong event featured a guest speaker, college workstations, parent workshops, lunch, and many prizes. The inspiring event speaker, Michelle Greendeer-Rave shared her unique experiences and wisdom with the youth.

Among the institutions and academic programs represented were UW-Eau Claire: Nursing Program, UW-Madison: Business/Entrepreneurship, UW-Marshfield: Communication Studies, Madison Technical College: Veterinary Technician Program, UW-Oshkosh: STEM, Winona State University: Athletic Training, UW-Stout: Apparel Design, UW-Stout Hospitality/Culinary Arts, and Western Technical College: Health and Public Safety.

Parent workshops provided information on how to prepare children for college. The Pre-College discussion was divided into separate sessions with the first offering information about the ACT, college visits, applying to college, and financial aid. The second part of this discussion focused on the life skills a college student needs to be successful. Topics discussed included study skills, money management, tips for daily living, and staying healthy. MicahMarie McCann, Recruitment and Pre-College Advisor, offered a personal perspective while facilitating this workshop. Other workshops offered to parents included information on the Johnson O'Malley program and a staff panel from the Education Department to walk parents through scenarios that commonly occur and answer any questions.



The rise of seat belt use at Ho-Chunk Nation

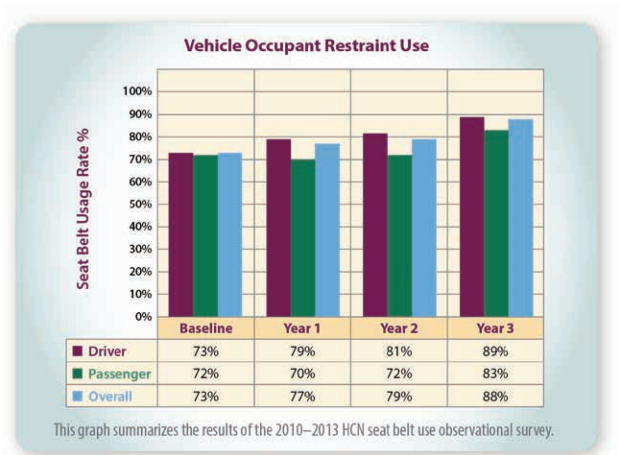
Submitted by Nicole Thunder-Kiesow, Ho-Chunk Nation Dept. of Health

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury death for the Native American population. The number of Native Americans killed in car crashes is higher than that of any other ethnic group. To address this problem, the TIPCAP Ho-Chunk Nation (HCN) program aims to increase the seat belt usage rate, increase the child passenger seat usage rate, decrease distracted driving among Ho-Chunk Tribal members, and reduce drinking and driving among Ho-Chunk Tribal members. The site has implemented a motor vehicle injury prevention program (MVIPP) to improve road safety and reduce injuries and deaths. Collecting Native American-specific data presented a program barrier. To overcome this challenge, HCN requested that law enforcement collect Native American-specific data during saturation patrols (citations, crash reports, etc.) and through HCN's observational surveys.

Since summer 2010 (baseline), the MVIPP staff has conducted observational seat belt surveys to estimate seat belt usage rates among Ho-Chunk Tribal members.

Based on the results, in Year 1 (2011) the overall seat belt usage rate was 77 percent, in Year 2 (2012) the overall usage rate was 79 percent, and in Year 3 (2013) the overall usage rate increased to 88 percent. The data shows the impact the MVIPP has had in the community: As a result of MVIPP activities, from 2010 to 2013 HCN drivers' use of seat belts grew from 73 percent to 89 percent, and passenger seat belt use increased from 72 percent to 83 percent.

The HCN IP and HCN police department are collaborating to present to the Tribal council on adopting Wisconsin's primary seat belt law and creating an ordinance on seat belt and child safety seat usage for the HCN. Clearly, the program has achieved the TIPCAP program goal to increase seat belt usage by 5 percent. According to HCN, the critical components of program success include enhanced communication with key stakeholders, collaboration with agencies such as other tribal/non-tribal programs, setting reasonable goals and objectives, a media campaign, data collection, and effective program evaluation.



Reference:
<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/>
[http://www.ttap.mtu.edu/workshops/2011/WITTC/presentations/Tuesday/Clans/1430 Clans - Strategies to Reduce Injuries - Thunder.pdf](http://www.ttap.mtu.edu/workshops/2011/WITTC/presentations/Tuesday/Clans/1430%20Clans%20-%20Strategies%20to%20Reduce%20Injuries%20-%20Thunder.pdf)

Entrepreneurative: Ho-Chunk Visionary Promotes Indigenous Entrepreneurs Via Podcast—iTunes Takes Notice

By Vincent Schilling
(Reprint with permission
from Indian Country Today)

Collin Price is an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation as well as his tribe's Public Relations Officer. He is also what he calls a proud Entrepreneurative, who Price defines as, "A pretty awesome person whose business is doing big things for their family, audience, customers and community."

Price says he realized several months ago that there were Native entrepreneurs all over the world but there was not a central place for resources for aspiring Entrepreneuratives. In response, Price created Entrepreneurative.com and created the Entrepreneurative podcast which garnered a spot on the iTunes podcasts front page.

Since starting Entrepreneurative, Price has interviewed successful Native entrepreneurs from all over and continues to add resources to his website. In an interview with Indian Country Today Media Network, Price told about his Entrepreneurative startup journey, and where he aspires to see things go into the future.

How long has Entrepreneurative been around?

I started this about three months ago and before that it was about four to five months in the making. It started from my desire to start my own business. I have always been interested in entrepreneur-ism. As part of my regular work I travel all over.

To me it seems there are a lot of organizations out there doing great work to include conferences and other things, but I haven't seen anything that was available for me when I was starting my business. I felt that entrepreneurial loneliness. It's that feeling when you're looking for someone to give you help, or to bounce your ideas off of.

Instead of waiting for something and grasping in the dark I thought, 'why don't I just try to create an entirely new community of like-minded people that want to create and grow their own business.'

Can you tell us about your podcast called Entrepreneurative?

My plan started months ago when I started reaching out to people. I discovered it was difficult to locate people. Another challenge was that I was getting brushed aside because I was not yet established. I remained persistent without entering the creepy mode of trying to get a hold of someone. (laughs)

Once I got hold of always people, I have received nothing but support and people are now anxious to be on my show. Recently I released my interview with Sharice Davids, the owner of Hoka Coffee on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

I have recorded about 30 interviews over the last few months. One of my future guests will be Dave Anderson of Famous Dave's.

What is the benefit of being an entrepreneur?

One thing I love about being an entrepreneur is that what you do is your own. That is the one thing I really love. It is a lot of work and right now. I have a wife and three kids, but it is fun. I am constantly reaching out to try and meet new people and network. It is a blast meeting new people.

It is also truly cool to see people get increased exposure for their business as well.

What do you hope to accomplish?

The big goal is to bring together native people who are looking to start their own businesses. In the near future, I'll be starting workshops, conducting a conference that is solely dedicated to address the needs small business owners have, such as branding, e-mail marketing and all the things that are overlooked at major conferences.

The big picture for a large company is fine, but I want to help the bakery down the street. This is where we are going. Right now, we are building an audience.

I had an intern this summer who is now a junior in college. He is Ho-chunk. He texted me the other night and said, "Thanks for the inspiration; I am starting my own business." Those are the things I am trying to do which includes providing resources.

I am looking to address the needs of small businesses by

listing several tools. I don't think people spend the time to help out entrepreneurs in Indian country.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I looked to have a wide network of Entrepreneuratives. I hope to see people breaking that barrier of not knowing if they could do something and instead take action on their own in order to build a business for themselves. I would love to have people start multi-million dollar companies.

Even if someone starts a company with himself as an employee or one other person, they are making a difference.

What advice do you have for young entrepreneurs?

I am not anti-education, but I would really caution someone who feels they have to go to school for the sake of someone saying that that is what they should do. If they don't want to go to school or if they have a passion for working on cars or wants to be a mechanic, there may be other ways to accomplish this instead of racking up \$80,000 in debt to get a \$12 an hour job.

Take action. That is really it. There are so many things you can put in front of yourself. You can make your own obstacles when you say things like, 'I don't have this, or I don't know how to do this or I have never done this.' You can move past this.

For instance, with my pod-



Collin Price, a Ho-Chunk businessman, is a self-described "family man, sports fanatic, and entrepreneur." (entrepreneurative.com)

cast, I have never broadcast anything before in my life. But I did not let that stop me. My first interview was brutal. You have to take action and do it. If you want to do a website, throw it up there; don't wait for it to be perfect, you are never going to be perfect. You have to make moves.

You are not going to know all the answers right away, but that is the beauty of everything you are going to learn, you were going to get some highs and lows, but you have to be willing to take that on and just wrap it.

I believe my podcast will be effective for helping people to grow their audience, while gaining some authority in their field.

Natural Resources Foundation awards \$1,000 grant to Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development council for emerald ash borer urban forestry outreach campaign

Maria Sadowski, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

Local efforts to care for our state's natural resources were recognized by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, which provided \$1,000 through its C.D. Besadny Conservation Grants program to support an Emerald Ash Borer Urban Forestry Outreach Campaign.



"Our Foundation promotes conservation education, saves endangered species, and protects public lands and waters. The Besadny Grants fund small projects that have a big impact in local communities. This year, we gave away more than \$26,000 to

30 projects across the entire state of Wisconsin. It was a very competitive process, and we're pleased to support the wonderful work of the Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council," said Ruth Oppedahl, executive director of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

"The Emerald Ash Borer Urban Forestry Outreach Campaign is focused on working with municipalities and landowners to teach recognition of, and preparedness for, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), thereby reducing the threat of sudden tree loss and costs associated with disposal. EAB is an exotic beetle responsible for the loss of millions of ash trees in the Midwest. While the spread of EAB to Central Wisconsin is likely inevitable, the early identification of EAB infestation on public and private property will reduce the financial impacts of rapid tree loss and disposal," said Mike Copas of Golden Sands RC&D.

The C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant Program promotes the responsible stewardship of Wisconsin's natural resources at the local level by providing matching grants for small-scale, natural resource projects and programs.

Named for C.D. "Buzz" Besadny, former head of the Department of Natural Resources and co-founder of the Natural Resources Foundation, the program honors Buzz Besadny's dedication to the conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources. Projects are also supported through the Foundation's Teachers' Outdoor Environmental Education Fund. Public and private organizations, including schools and governments, may apply for the grants.

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council wins grant from Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

"Grants awarded this year ranged from \$500 to \$1,000 and must be matched 100% by recipient organizations

either through cash or in-kind donations," said Oppedahl. "Since 1990, the Besadny Grants have contributed more than \$378,000 to nearly 500 projects, covering every county in our state."

Besadny Grant-funded projects in 2013 include expanding citizen-based monitoring in the Bad River Watershed, monitoring and surveys of finches in Minocqua, support for a natural resources internship program in Buffalo County, a nature signage project in Wausau, and support for rain gardens, honey bees, and urban forests, and many other projects across Wisconsin.

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Since 1986, the Foundation has worked with citizens, businesses, non-profits, and the government to promote the protection and enjoyment of Wisconsin's public lands, waters, and wildlife. The Foundation has contributed more than \$4.6 million to conservation projects throughout

the state. For more information, visit WisConservation.org.



Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. was established in 1972. Our goal is to support the improvement of Central Wisconsin's economy in ways that conserve its natural resources at the same time. We network within the counties of Adams, Juneau, Marathon, Marquette, Monroe, Portage, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood. We are an independent, not for profit 501(c) 3, non-partisan organization. Golden Sands RC&D, GoldenSandsRCD.org

2013 Year in Review

January

Tribal members come out to make Idle No More rally happen

On Saturday, January 13, some Ho-Chunk Nation tribal members took part in the “Idle No More” Solidarity Peace Rally that was held outside the Wisconsin State Capitol building. Tribal members helped out where they could, some serving as organizers, speakers, singers, dancers, and sign holders.

The Idle No More movement began in Canada by four women: Jessica Gordan, Sylvia McAdams, Sheela McLean, and Nina Wilson. They were educating the public at a rally about the affects the Bill C-45 as proposed by Canadian Prime Minister Stephan Harper. Harper’s omnibus Bill would weaken environmental laws and tribal sovereignty.

From that point, more rallies and protests were organized to oppose C-45 leading up to December 10, Amnesty International Human Rights day. On the same day, Chief Theresa Spence (Attawapiskat First Nation) announced her hunger strike until she could meet with Prime Minister Harper and the Governor General of Canada, David Johnston, to discuss Aboriginal rights. To date, Spence has not ended her hunger strike. She drinks water, tea, and broth, and has lost more than thirty pounds.



Overpass Light Brigade posts messages for the cause

Teen Read Week posters use Ho-Chunk students

With a grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, Penny Johnson, Teen Library Specialist with the Baraboo Public Library, produced a series of “Read” posters which featured some of the local Ho-Chunk students.

The posters were produced in conjunction with “Teen Read Week” which was last November.

Although the pictures were taken last November, the finished product only recently came out for display.

Penny stated that the grant was also administered by the Young Adult Library Services Association, which is division of the American Library Association.

When writing the grant she had in mind how she and the Baraboo Public Library could help keep relations with the Nation’s youth centers.

After speaking to youth worker Chuck Davis, they came up with a schedule when the pictures could be taken. Ten Ho-Chunk youths were involved in this series but Penny said she is working on more posters that would feature more tribal students and also possibly branching off and doing a series of posters that would address more Native issues.

Arts and crafts a way of life for Hindsley family

Patricia Hindsley- Eagleman and her daughter Angelina are a team of beadwork artists who are very experienced at what they do.

“Our parents got us into feather work and bead work when we were young and it’s something we intend to teach our kids and grand kids.” Patricia said.

The Hindsley family has been crafting beadwork and art pieces since childhood.

Patricia said that she remembers a time when they were young and first starting to learn the craft and how it was and still is a way of life for them.

She said that this is something her and her family has been doing for quite a while.

Crafting dance outfits and setting up food stands were a way of life for the family and a way to make money back in the day.

With her brother Charles doing his work with turquoise and jewelry and sister Vicki designing a line of purses, among other beautiful items, it has truly become a family affair.

Three mechanics at the Ho-Chunk Transportation Shop make repair look easy

Chances are, if you’ve ever had to get a Nation’s vehicle or a GSA vehicle repaired or maintained, you already know these guys.

It’s hard not to. After all, when you arrive at the garage, you’re greeted with their quick witticisms and maybe even some cheese, sausage and crackers. That’s just their way of welcoming you into their work environment which is also their home.

Mechanics Pat Reardon, Larry Fisher and Mark Potaracke seem to have been there forever, always ready to change your oil, put new tires on your car, or change your brake pads, all with a smile and a joke or two.

The three mechanics have a combined vehicle repair experience of 47 years and their backgrounds are very similar. And, although you may see them often, many people don’t know their personal backgrounds.

Rockman completes Basic Tribal Probation Instruction

Perhaps tribal member Denis Rockman has paved the way for the Ho-Chunk Nation to begin its own probation and parole system.

On Nov. 30, Rockman received a Certificate of Completion for 180 hours of Basic Tribal Probation Instruction in Tacoma, Washington.

The classes began in August and required each student to return for a one-week training session per month. While there, he did have opportunities to be a tourist, he said. Rockman visited various local attractions, including the Space Needle in Seattle.

And even flying to Washington State wasn’t so bad after a while, he said. While he didn’t care for flying at the beginning, he “got used to it.”

There were 18 students who went through the course, all of them from different tribes around the United States

“The training they received – all tribes will adhere to,” Rockman said.

February

Ho-Chunk Student Visits State Capitol to Educate Representatives

Lawrence Walker, III, of the Ho-Chunk Nation and residing in Wittenberg, WI, was selected by Scenic Rivers Area Health Education Centers (Scenic Rivers AHEC) to visit Madison on January 31, 2013 for educational visits with regional legislators. A group consisting of Scenic Rivers AHEC board members, collaborators, students, and staff visited all thirteen offices of the ten counties that Scenic Rivers AHEC serves to explain the direct impact these programs are making on their communities.

Walker was chosen to share his experience as one of ten Native Students that participated in the Scenic Rivers AHEC Health Careers camp in La Crosse this past summer. While the camp has hosted local rural students for the past eleven years, this was the first summer a camp week was held specifically for Ho-Chunk Nation and Oglala Lakota Sioux students from Wisconsin and South Dakota. The students traveled to multiple facilities in La Crosse and Black River Falls for hands-on job shadowing and to explore the vast career opportunities in healthcare. The campers also visited three educational institutions covering topics like length, cost and intensity of schooling for perspective careers.

Student receives acclaim for ‘Bullying’ video

Bullying is a rough subject. For people who have experienced being bullied, it brings out a range of emotions, often feelings of shame and humiliation.

Eighth-grader Roger Pekarek took on the subject of bullying in hopes that he can do something to make it stop. He’s made an anti-bullying video in his school that’s received some local attention.

Since he made the video, he’s presented the video a number of times for groups, even in front of the teachers of the school. Also, he’ll be showing the video at the 2013 Western Wisconsin Education Conference at the La Crosse Center on Friday, Feb. 15.

News of his creation has spread so that even the local Fox television station, WXOW – Channel 19, aired it on their evening news on Dec. 24.

Boardman says farewell to staff and patients at the Ho-Chunk Clinic

It’s always difficult to say good-bye, especially when someone who has been an integral part of everyone’s life.

A farewell celebration was held Friday, Jan. 18, to Dr. Ben Boardman, who has served the Ho-Chunk Nation as a physician for 12 years.

Dr. Boardman worked for a year and a half, 1998-1999, with the Ho-Chunk Nation as a physician at the former clinic building at the intersection of Lumber Jack Guy Road and Airport Road. The former clinic building sometimes presented challenges, he said, having only four exam rooms.

He also was the only doctor at the House of Wellness in Baraboo, traveling there two days a week until the medical program could be established. He also was part of the “fitness initiative,” working with the diabetes part of the support system.

Then, Dr. Boardman left the Ho-Chunk Nation for three years, only to return in July 2002. He’s been with the Nation ever since.

Dr. Boardman is leaving the Ho-Chunk Nation to work with Memorial Hospital in Black River Falls as the “Hospitalist.” As Hospitalist, Boardman will be the physician to patients who have been admitted to the hospital and don’t have a doctor on staff, or their doctor is unavailable during part or all of their stay in the hospital.



Dr. Ben Boardman displays his gifts, which he received at his farewell ceremony on Jan. 18. He received a Pendleton blanket and an engraved crystal pillar in appreciation for his years of service.

March

Legislator challenges Election Board on two-term limit

Legislator Robert Two Bears has challenged the legitimacy of the March 5 Primary Election. He contends a Legislature candidate in the election was ineligible because she had already served two consecutive terms and he was requesting the March 5 to be decertified.

Two Bears took his case against the Ho-Chunk Nation Elections Board to Tribal Court on Monday, March 25 with the Honorable Judge Jodene Lowe presiding.

Two Bear, without legal counsel, contended that Kathyleen Whiterabbit, his opponent in the March 5 primary, had previously served two terms, therefore was ineligible to serve again.

Whiterabbit was present in the courtroom, along with Gregory Littlejohn and James Greendeer, who all indicated verbally that they wished to intervene on Two Bear’s challenge.

The contentious issue arose because the Legislature had passed a Constitutional Amendment which limits legislators to two consecutive terms, but had not specified if the legality of the amendment pertained to terms served prior to the passage of the law, or if it only applied to terms served from the date of passage of the law and forward.



Robert Twobears

Dan Brown alleges fraud and mismanagement at Ho-Chunk Gaming Madison

At the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature held on February 19, Dan Brown, former Executive Manager of Ho-Chunk Gaming Madison, represented findings of an investigation on his former Food & Beverage Department. Brown said, “The Food & Beverage Department lost \$2 million, of actual money, due to fraud and mismanagement.”

Innovative Gaming Solutions was hired to conduct the investigation that was completed in August 2012. Brown met with the Gaming Commissioners, Kyle Funmaker and Dan Blumer, as well as with President Jon Greendeer. Brown said, “When I met with the Office of the President, I advised them to take the “not on my watch” approach. He did nothing. He told an outright lie to Representative Cloud. He said there was an ongoing investigation, but the investigation was done.” President Jon Greendeer said, “The decision was made to have IGS go through each of the Nation’s facilities.” The IGS investigation findings will be available mid-March.



A walk for water’s sake: Ojibwe women carry clean water the length of the Mississippi

A pail of water may be such a simple thing – something we might all take for granted.

But when that water is carried the entire length of the Mississippi River — from top to bottom — on foot – the significance grows.

That’s what a group of Ojibwe women and men are doing. It’s called the Mississippi River Water Walk and they’re carrying a bucket of fresh water for 1,296 miles. They began the walk on March 1 and plan to be at the Gulf of Mexico on April 30.

The water is pure, clean and drinkable, from Lake Itasca at the beginning of the Mississippi, which is highly in contrast with the dirty, polluted water at the end of their journey – where it dumps into the Gulf of Mexico.

True, it’s an effort to show the world how man has been polluting the water, but it’s much more than that.

“The walk has inspired many people. Everyone lives in a watershed and if it’s well cared for, it makes the water happy,” said Sharon Day, founder of the annual event.

Sharon is the executive director of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force in St. Paul, having founded the organization 23 years ago. The organization helps people with health and social issues, such as HIV and teenage pregnancy prevention.

Emily Decorah breaks Horizon League and UW-Milwaukee records

On March 9, Emily Decorah broke the Horizon League single season record for 3 point shots made in league play. She made (67) 3 point shots, breaking the old record of (52). Decorah also broke the single season record for 3 point shots made in a single season by making (94) 3 point shots. The old record was (93) 3 point shots made; Decorah broke her assistant coach Jessica Wilhite’s record of (93).

Decorah hit her record breaking shot in the second half of the final game of the regular season against UW-Green Bay Phoenix at home in the Klotche Center. The Phoenix finished the season as the league leaders.

April

Twin sisters take opportunity to mingle with professional athletes

Karen and Kathy Hopinkah with Coach Joel Quenneville Recently, twins Karen Hopinkah Ramberg and Kathy Hopinkah Hannan had the chance to rub elbows with players and staff of the Chicago Blackhawks. Seeing that they are huge fans of the professional hockey team, it was an experience they won’t soon forget.

“The Blackhawks logo is the most recognized logo in professional sports, even more than any professional football team’s logo,” Karen said.

They watch every game they can, either in person, at the hockey rink, or on television when they can’t make it to the games, she said.

“Tickets are hard to come by,” Karen said. “The team is number one nationally in terms of points scored.”

The reason they were able to meet, and talk to, the Blackhawk team is that they had the pleasure of attending the gala introduction of the new Chicago Blackhawks Charities Junior Board. The event was held on March 23, 2013 at ClubParis in Chicago. The new members are 20-30 “heavy-hitters” in business in the Chicago area.

Dietician makes nutrition delicious at the TAUs

An important aspect of any diet is getting the right amount of vitamins, minerals and nutrients.

To help make that possible, a dietician has started working with the Tribal Aging Units (TAUs).

His name is Tim Holtorf, having started with the Ho-Chunk Nation on Jan. 28, 2013, having graduated from University of Wisconsin – Stout with a degree in dietetics.

Since he has started, Holtorf has been coordinating the menus of each of the meals provided to elders at the TAUs. He analyzes the menus for protein, carbohydrates, fats and other ingredients to make sure the meals are well balance and heart-healthy.

Having grown up in Mukwonago, Holtorf became interested in healthy choices of food while in high school. He became interested in body building and he knew that correct nutrition could further his cause.

“When I was in training, I researched nutrition and I have had a passion for it ever since,” he said. “I monitored what I ate pretty closely. It just clicked with me.”

Elder contribution to the Nation workforce is a win-win

The elders had a vision and it came to fruition.

They believed that they could provide their wisdom and strengths to the Ho-Chunk Nation in a way that will benefit everyone.

And now, it has come true. It’s called the Elder Community Work Program, a two-year pilot program that offers part-time employment opportunities to interested Ho-Chunk Nation elders.

“It’s up and running,” said ECWP Administrator Jean Stacy. “I started in October and in February the elders came onboard. We have 20 elder slots, with some openings in St. Paul, Chicago and La Crosse.”

There have been a lot of inquiries about the program, she said. At present, 17 elders are gainfully employed.

“It is an opportunity to earn some spending money, to socialize, and to give the Nation an opportunity to gain from their experience, language and culture,” Stacy said.

Special General Council Meeting: Section 17 is nixed, President Greendeer narrowly escapes removal

The Special General Council to address the Separation of Business and Government was held on Saturday, April 20th at the Patriot Center in Rothschild, Wisconsin. Legislature requested the Special General Council Meeting to introduce the effort to separate business and government and gain support from the tribal membership. In 2003, the General Council passed a resolution to Separate Business from Government.

Quorum was set at 1089 voting members. The first signs of meeting quorum occurred at 12:38 pm when 1113 were registered. However, roll call for meeting quorum wasn’t reached until 2:19 pm.

The meeting was called to order and nominations for Chair of the General Council meeting began. Two tribal members were nominated: Dr. Jeremy Rockman and Charles Hindsley. Hindsley was elected to the chairman spot.

Hindsley asked Wilfrid Cleveland to offer the invocation. Ashley Natysan was assigned as the recording secretary, and Harrison Funmaker was assigned as sergeant at arms.



The results of the resolution to remove President Jon Greendeer.

Court reaches decision on Elections Board challenge

The Ho-Chunk Nation Court recently has ruled in a court challenge to the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board and Judy Whitehorse, Election Board chairperson, by Legislator Robert Two Bears.

Judge Jo Deen Lowe ruled that Two Bear’s challenge didn’t have enough evidence; therefore, the results of the March 5, 2013, General Primary Election will stand.

Two Bears was challenging the eligibility of certain candidates in the March 5, 2013, General Primary Election because of a newly-enacted two-term limitation for Legislators.

The decision was explained in a 15-page document issued on April 4, 2013.

“In summation, it is the determination of the court that the plaintiff (Two Bears) failed to meet the burden of proof to show by clear and convincing evidence that the Election Board violated the Nation’s Constitution of the Election Code,” the document stated.

May

Ho-Chunk Nation donates to La Crosse’s Safe-Cam Project

On May 22, the Ho-Chunk Nation donated \$100,000.00 to La Crosse City Vision Foundation’s Safe-Cam Project. The La Crosse City Vision Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization that works in collaboration with the City of La Crosse and the Downtown Mainstreet Incorporated on special projects and beautification of downtown La Crosse. The Safe-Cam Project will keep downtown La Crosse safer by installing cameras that will monitor streets, sidewalks, alleys, and parking ramps to deter crimes.

Ho-Chunk Nation Vice President, Greg Blackdeer, and Ho-Chunk Nation Legislator, Greg Littlejohn , were on hand to present the check to La Crosse City Vision Foundation Director, Thomas Lynch, during a press conference at Authenticom, a downtown La Crosse business located at 400 Main Street. Authenticom owner, Steve Cottrell, Brothers Bar, and Community Credit Union also presented \$10,000.00 checks to the Safe-Cam Project during the press conference.



District 5 Representative Greg Littlejohn and Ho-Chunk Nation Vice President Greg Blackdeer present Michael Keil, of the La Crosse City Vision Foundation with \$100,000 donation for the Safe-Cam Project

Carol Rollins honored with state health award

Carol Rollins, environmental Health director with the Ho-Chunk Nation, was honored with the “Distinguished Service to Public Health Award,” presented May 22 at the Wisconsin Public Health Association and Wisconsin Association of Local Health Department Boards annual convention.

The convention was held at the Wilderness Glacier Lodge Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells.

Rollins was given the award for her work with the Ho-Chunk Nation Health Department.

Sally Nusslock, health commissioner with the West Allis Health Department, gave a biography speech and presented the award to Rollins.

Youth learn to design and walk in their own shoes

Louie Gong shows you how to make colorful shoes.

But making pretty shoes isn’t the full story. For one, Gong has a message to go along with those shoes.

And, each line on every shoe means something.

Gong allowed his message to be heard and his inspiration to felt when he provided a presentation to the public on May 18 at the Tribal Office Building and to the Ho-Chunk youth on May 19.

The event was sponsored by the Ho-Chunk Education Department, Ho-Chunk Youth Services and Ho-Chunk Children and Family Services Department. He brought a load of Mockups, his own design of shoes, to be drawn on and painted to represent their own places in life.

“My programs are mostly with the youth, but they are for everyone,” Gong said following the event. “There is a message to what we do – it’s more than just pretty designs.”

Supreme Court ruling: Legislator two-term limit began in 2005

The Ho-Chunk Nation Supreme Court recently overturned a prior ruling by the Ho-Chunk Trial Court, thereby disqualifying legislators who have already served two or more consecutive terms until the present.

The ruling was issued May 20 by the Honorable Todd Matha, associate justice for the Ho-Chunk Supreme Court.

Matha determined that the General Council approved the two-term limit in October 11, 2003, but the issue was not placed on a secretarial election ballot until August 14, 2012.

The delay of the amendment being put on the ballot still didn’t change the fact that the intensions of the drafter and General Council were to have the provisions to begin immediately.

The issue came to the Court when Legislator Robert Two Bears previous challenged in Tribal Court the March 5, 2013, primary election. In the election, Two Bears was eliminated from the General Election by Kathleen Lonetree Whiterabbit.



June

Children’s Learning Village- Montessori receives state license

It’s official.

The Children’s Learning Village – Montessori has received its state license after a visit by state inspectors on Wednesday, June 5.

“It means families looking to have children enrolled at our facility can have financial help through the county or the tribe,” said Kaye Quall program administrator. “Only licensed facilities can receive money from the state.”

The process began last August when the paperwork was filed with the state. Also, the facility need meet certain requirements, such as safety standards and equipment.

“We are very excited to receive our state license,” said Director Lee Ann Mortensen. “There was a lot of hard work done by HHCD, Children’s Learning Village – Montessori Academy Board and Ho-Chunk community members, and we are very thankful for all their efforts. We look forward to continuing to meet the needs of the Ho-Chunk community and surrounding area for their child care needs.”

While some parents will receive financial assistance, others will continue to pay on their own. Qualifications for financial assistance are assessed on many factors, some of which are household income.

General Election finished, Special Elections to come

Six legislator seats have been decided from the June 4 General Election, with two yet to go.

Normally, the election would all be settled, but the May 20 Ho-Chunk Supreme Court decision has resulted in a restart in two Legislative seats.

The District 1, Seat 3 position is up for grabs again, along with the District 5 (at-large), Seat 3 position.

As a result of the Supreme Court decision, incumbents Douglas Greengrass and Gregory Littlejohn were deemed ineligible, therefore a Special Election will be held for those Legislative seats.

People wishing to run for those positions will have until Friday, June 14, to file their paperwork to declare themselves as candidates.

The Special Election will be held Tuesday, July 9. If a candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote, that candidate will be awarded the seat. If one candidate doesn’t receive more than 50 percent of the vote, the top two candidates will be selected for another election. The winner of that election will take the vacant seat.

Flute instructor provides his own style

Michael “Laughing Fox” Charette, a member of the Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa, provided instruction on constructing and playing a flute at the Ho-Chunk Youth Camp 2013.

Each camp attendee was given the opportunity to make a flute and was given instruction on how to play it.

But Charette, the instructor, didn’t learn how to make a flute or play it from a book. He lived it.

For about two years, Charette lived secluded in the woods. One day, he traded a dream catcher for a flute, which began his journey of mastering the art of the flute. He would often sit in the woods for hours, trying to imitate the songs and melodies of the woodland birds.

His songs became longer and more advanced.

“I didn’t have a teacher to tell me what to do, tell me if it was good or bad, so I developed my own unique style,” he said.



Making a flute is a very satisfying project, but it takes many hours of fine craftsmanship.

Ho-Chunk Youth Camp 2013 offers a fun way to learn culture

Where can a young adult go during summer vacation to have fun and learn more about Ho-Chunk culture and language?

The answer is an easy one: Ho-Chunk Youth Camp 2013.

About 95 Ho-Chunk youth gathered at Pine View Campground on Fort McCoy grounds, near Sparta, from June 17 through 22, to learn about culture and language, but also to play games, make new friends, enjoy a campfire, swimming, fishing and the great outdoors.

“This has been done for many years. Some were conducted by the Education Department and before that, some of the Study Centers took care of the camps,” said Lori Pettibone, director of the Black River Falls Youth Center.

This is the second year for the camp at the Fort McCoy Pine View Campground, but one more day has been added to the schedule. That day was added because of the positive comments from the youth at last year’s camp, plus it gives them an additional day to complete their projects, Pettibone said.

The Ho-Chunk Nation celebrates its 50th birthday

On June 22nd a celebration of the 50th the Nations Anniversary was held at the Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells Hotel and Convention Center in Baraboo WI. A crowd of about 400 gathered to honor those that have served in our tribal government since its inception in the early 60’s.

The growing of crops was not the first joint venture between the Wisconsin Ho-Chunk and the Nebraska Winnebago. In 1949, both bands of Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) agreed to file a common claim before the Indians Claims Committee to seek payment on the millions of acres of ceded land. In Wisconsin, a group assembled themselves as the Wisconsin Winnebago Business Committee.

July

Newly-elected government officials begin their terms

Six newly-elected Legislators and a Supreme Court Chief Justice were sworn in during a July 3 Oath of Office Ceremony held at the Bingo Hall, Ho-Chunk Gaming – Black River Falls.

Lance Long was the Master of Ceremonies and the Welcome Address was provided by President Jon Greendeer.

Honorable singers included the Bear Heart Singers and the Little Thunder Singers.

Each of the newly-elected Legislators, Gregory Blackdeer (re-elected), Henning Garvin, David Greendeer, Darren Brinegar, Kathyleen Lonetree Whiterabbit and Matt Mullen, and Chief Justice Mary Jo Brooks Hunter (re-elected) took the oath of office, was offered Pendleton blankets, then took the podium to offer their acceptance speeches.

Garvin said that he wasn’t quite sure he would be sworn in at that time, right up to a few minutes before the beginning of the ceremony. That’s because of the challenge to the election due to changing the polling site in Tomah.

Garvin said he will take a good look at the election system and make necessary corrections.

“The first thing I plan to do after taking office is to make sure errors like this doesn’t happen again,” he said.



Sworn in to office are (from left) David Greendeer, Henning Garvin, Gregory Blackdeer, Mary Jo Brooks Hunter, Kathyleen Lonetree Whiterabbit, Matt Mullen and Darren Brinegar during the July 3 ceremony.

Waukau, Greendeer claim poll change confused voters

Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Judge Amanda Rockman denied a challenge to the June 4 General Election, stating that “clear and convincing evidence” was not provided that the election outcome would have been different, if rules have been followed.

The trial was held on July 1 with a decision issued by Rockman on July 2.

Kim Waukau and James Greendeer challenged the June 4 election, contending the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board was neglectful in changing the location of the Tomah polling place without proper notification to the voting public.

According to Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court documents and testimony, the Tomah polling place for the June 4 election, the Tribal Aging Unit (TAU), was closed on that day because no water was available, making restrooms unavailable. Therefore, the polling place was changed to the Housing Department in the Veterans Administration Building in Tomah.

However, according to witnesses, no signs were posted at the TAU of the change.

Waukau and Greendeer appeared in Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court represented by their attorney, James Ritland. Judy Whitehorse, director of the Election Board, was present with the Board’s attorney, Michelle Greendeer Rave.

Youth expand money skills with ‘Financial Frenzy’

Many everyday living expenses can add up fast, and sometimes the money doesn’t go far enough to cover everything.

It takes good financial skills to be able to balance the income with the expenditures so that life isn’t so stressful.

That’s what the approximately 65 youth were taught at the third annual Financial Frenzy, held June 26 at the Three Bears Lodge in Warrens. Groups from the Black River Falls, Tomah, La Crosse, Wittenberg, Nekoosa, Wittenberg, Dells and Milwaukee youth centers were in attendance.

“The event is to provide youth, who will be receiving the minors trust payout, with real life scenarios on how to manage their expenses and choices they will need to make or me confronted with,” said Francesca Bird, Acting Executive Director of First Nations in Tomah and organizer of Financial Frenzy.

The youth were given a set amount of money, in cash, and proceeded to buy all the things they believed were necessary, plus some that weren’t necessary. The learning game showed the participants how fast the money was spent and things they could do, or avoid, to make their money last longer.

August

Zayta Thundercloud passes on her crown

Last year at this time tribal member Zayta Thundercloud was contemplating just the thought of running for Miss Jackson County 2012, but on July 29th at the Milt Lunda Memorial Arena in Black River Falls, A then 16 year old Zayta beat out the other six contestants to win the Miss Jackson County pageant

The pageant started in 1937 and has been going on since then without a Native American winner. Ms. Thundercloud was the pageant’s first.

The daughter of Mark Thundercloud and Wendy Chamberlain, young Zayta said she really didn’t know what the crown entailed.

“I guess I really didn’t know what it really entailed. I knew it was a lot of

work and (attending) a lot of events, but I didn’t know how much we’d be involved in community service — which was really a bonus. It was great to work with the community and a real positive thing,” Thundercloud said.



Tribal member Bill Lowe, Friends of Mirror Lake President Cindy Cseri, Friend member Waldo Peterson, Area II Legislator David Greendeer, Ho-Chunk Nation Vice-President Heather Cloud, Friend of Mirror Lake member Dianne Kropp and Park Superintendant Becky Green.

Friends of Mirror Lake receive money donated by Ho-Chunk Nation

The Friends of Mirror Lake began in the late 1990’s with a small group of volunteers who over the next 20 years has grown to a group of 25+ volunteers making a big difference for the guests and campers at Mirror Lake State Park, located in Baraboo, Wisconsin. As a result of their commitment, hard work, and dedication, the group was awarded the Hero Award from the State organization Friends of Wisconsin State Parks as the Outstanding Friends Group in 2011.

In 2012, the Friends of Mirror Lake undertook the biggest project to date for the park – a new seating area for the amphitheater. Through our fundraising efforts of fire wood and concession sales, we were able to donate \$50,000 to the project with a \$20,000 State matching grant to fully fund the project. The project was completed in June 2012.

At a ceremony held at the Mirror Lake Amphitheater on Monday August 5th the Ho-Chunk Nation donated \$25,000 to the building project. The donation will help complete the sound and lighting part of the project.

Court rules Election Board didn’t break Election Code

Judge Amanda Rockman turned down Joann Maney’s challenge to the Election Board concerning Legislative candidate Robert TwoBears having his name appear on the ballot for District 5, running for Seats 1 and 3.

The decision was released to the public on Wednesday, August 28, 2013, just minutes before the Swearing-in Ceremony at the Tribal Office Building.

Maney contented that Two Bears ran for two different seats, District 5 Seat 1, and District 5 Seat 3, for the 2013 election cycle. Maney ran against Two Bears for District 5 Seat 3 on July 30 and lost by three votes.

In Rockman’s written decision, she states:

“Based on the foregoing, the Court denies the petitioner’s (Maney’s) election challenge. The Court finds that a challenging party must ‘prove by clear and convincing evidence that the Election Board violated the Election Code or otherwise conducted an unfair election and that the outcome of the election would have been different but for the violation.’

Former Whitetail Crossing employee sentenced for theft

A former Whitetail Crossing employee, accused of embezzlement, was sentenced to 60 days in jail and four years probation on Aug. 22 in Monroe County Circuit Court, Sparta.

According to court documents, Bonnie S. Dunn, Warrens, took more than \$30,000 from the Whitetail Crossings Convenience Store in Tomah during a period from March 1, 2012, to November 5, 2012, by voiding sales on the cash register and pocketing the cash, according to the criminal complaint.

Dunn appeared in Branch II, Monroe County Circuit Court, with her attorney, Kenneth Hamm of Sparta, for the felony plea and sentencing hearing. Monroe County District Attorney Kevin D. Croninger also was present, representing the prosecution.

Dunn pleaded “no contest” to the Class G felony violation, to which Judge Mark L. Goodman explained was the same as “guilty,” therefore the court found the defendant guilty. Hamm recommended for the court to withhold sentencing and to place Dunn on probation for four years, spend 60 days in jail, pay restitution of \$30,000, and write a letter of apology to the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Rivers as Bridges conference held at Ho-Chunk Convention Center

Rivers as Bridges (RAB) is an international program that examines the sister-river relationship of the Mississippi River in America and the Yangtze River in China. The Yangtze and Mississippi have rich histories and are vital channels of culture, commerce and conservation in each nation.

RAB is focused for the next 10 years on an effort to connect the people of the Yangtze (Chang Jiang) and Mississippi Rivers by sharing stories and information about their lives, work and dependence on water that culminates with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Sino-US Joint Communiqué.

RAB is dedicated to finding ways to sustain not just the Yangtze and Mississippi but all working river systems from the grass roots up. It recognizes that knowledge, beliefs, culture and political economy have shaped, and have been shaped by, the environment.

This is the second time that Chinese students have visited the Ho-Chunk. Last year they came with about 25 students. This visit they showed up 170 curious students.

September

Ho-Chunk Nation celebrates land acquisition

A celebration of land acquisition to the Ho-Chunk Nation was held in the Tribal Office Building atrium on Wednesday, Sept. 11.

The recently acquired land includes four parcels.

Blackhawk Property

One parcel is known as the Little Blackhawk property, comprising of 101 acres in the Town of Brockway.

The planned use of the parcel included a community center and a charter school. The community center will offer tribal members a fitness center, recreational opportunities and a place to gather for ceremonial uses. The charter school will provide services to youth from grades 6 through 12. The intent of the school is to teach language and cultural lifestyles, in addition to preparing students for education beyond high school.

Group discusses ways to oppose frac sand mining

It was another day, just like any other day, when Ho-Chunk member Cecelia Kraus saw a vehicle rolling into her driveway. She didn't know who it was, or who it might be. The man exited his vehicle and approached her front door. It was 1 p.m.

"I'm here. I'm going to make you homeless," the man said to her. "But I'm going to find you another home."

Cecelia was shocked, not knowing what the man was talking about.

The man, a local realtor, explained that he was representing Northstar Sand LLC, a frac sand mining company, and he was instructed to offer Cecelia a substantial amount for her 4.6 acres near Hixton, along with the house and other buildings.

Cecelia told her story at a meeting of the "Voices for the Six Directions" group on Thursday, Sept. 19, in the Ho-Chunk Legislature meeting room. The newly-formed group is concerned with the recent acquisition of land by frac sand mining companies.

Ho-Chunk Nation signs educational agreement with UW-Eau Claire

With a few strokes of a pen, the Ho-Chunk Nation and the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire have begun down a new path together.

The agreement, considered a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) was signed between the two parties at a ceremony held at the Priory, about three miles from the university.

The agreement would allow cooperation between the parties to create an atmosphere more conducive to education of Native students. It would provide more cultural aspects into the students' living arrangements at the Priory.

The Priory is the former Sisters of St. Bede Monastery. The property includes 112 wooded acres and 80,000 square feet of building complexes, which includes dormitory-style housing and the Nature Academy, a child-care center for university students and faculty, with community members as a third priority. At present, 19 students live at the Priory.



Ho-Chunk President Jon Greendeer signs the Memorandum of Intent (MOI) with University of Wisconsin -- Eau Claire Chancellor James Schmidt.

Ho-Chunk Nation and Money Centers of America Stipulate to a Judgment in Favor of the Nation for \$5 Million Dollars

On June 17, 2010 the Ho-Chunk Nation filed a complaint against Money Centers of America (MCA) for money damage in the amount of \$9,206,689. These damages were based upon breach of contract claims that the Nation alleged against Money Centers of America, who was the Nation's cash access vendor from approximately June 2008 through to August 2009. This case is related partially in content to the criminal cases involving Tim Whiteagle and Clarence Pettibone. Those cases were federal criminal cases. The Nation's case against MCA is a civil case alleging damages and is only related to the criminal case by some of the facts asserted in both cases, but the Nation's case is directed purely at MCA for money the Nation feels it is entitled to due to the behavior, including breach of contract, of the vendor, MCA.

Rockman stands ground on election challenge

The case of Dr. Jeremy Rockman challenging the actions of the Election Board continued on Friday, September 27 in Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court for a Motion Hearing and a Status Conference.

Rockman appeared in person, while Election Board Chair Judy Whitehorse and Election Board Attorney Heidi Drobnick were present by telephone, before pro tem Trial Court Justice Paul Stenzel.

The Election Board was seeking to dismiss the case based on its belief that Rockman had not filed in time in a challenge to their decision not to certify him as winner as associate justice.

Drobnick contended that Rockman did not file his complaint within 10 days from the June 4 election.

Drobnick contended that Rockman's challenge to the election process was too late, that he should have filed by June 15, but he filed on July 21, which is 37 days after the June 4 election.

"There is a Ho-Chunk statute of limitations that says it must be within 10 days," Drobnick said.

Confusion over which election needed to be challenged because the General Election was held on June 4 and the Primary Election was held on July 7, of which Rockman's name again appeared on the ballot, Judge Stenzel said.

October

Ho-Chunk Nation partners with Badger Honor Flight

On October 19, 2013, the Badger Honor Flight made its 13th trip to Washington D.C. to take veterans to see their war memorials. The Ho-Chunk Nation has sponsored and partnered with the Badger Honor Flight for several years now. The Ho-Chunk nation made a \$20,000.00 donation for the 2014 Badger Honor Flight.

This year's Badger Honor Flight took 87 veterans and 74 guardians to Washington D.C. Two veterans passed away before they received the call to fly on October 19. There were 23 WWII veterans, 56 Korean War veterans, 1 from both WWII and Korea, 1 from both WWII and Vietnam, 2 from Vietnam, and 1 from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. There were two females, and Myrle Thompson, Ho-Chunk tribal member and Air Force veteran, was one of them.

Badger Honor Flight has made 13 trips to Washington D.C., for a total of 700 veterans and 600 guardians, in 29 bus loads.

Ho-Chunk Nation participants included: Badger Honor Flight participant, Myrle Thompson; Thompson's flight guardian and granddaughter, Nora Young; Ho-Chunk Nation President, Jon Greendeer; Public Relations Specialist, Michelle Ramberg; Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells Marketing, Nehomah Thundercloud; Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls Marketing, Tris Harris; Ho-Chunk Gaming Madison, Rikki Blair; Heritage Preservation Executive Director, Robert Mann, Ho-Chunk tribal member and Marine Corps veteran, Ken Mc Andrew.

Lake Mills man seeks help from Ho-Chunk Clan Leaders to preserve ancient site

The adventurer in all of us dreams about someday stumbling upon a lost ancient city. Whether it would be in the jungle or underwater, like the legendary lost city of Atlantis, the thoughts of donning an Indiana Jones hat or scuba gear, and exploring the ancient structures have most people intrigued.

That possibility is a reality for a Lake Mills man, who believes he has studied such an ancient underwater civilization in Rock Lake, just 18 miles east of Madison.

He believes the settlement may have been made by Ho-Chunk ancestors.

The man, Steve Balding, along with fellow researcher Judy Gerstner, spoke to members of the Ho-Chunk Traditional Court on Monday, October 14, about their studies of the ancient artifacts on the bottom of Rock Lake.

Balding is manager of dairy and frozen foods at a Mills Lake supermarket and Gerstner is a psychiatric technician in an area hospital. All costs involved in their research have been from their own pockets.

Balding told that his interest began when, in the summer of 2002, he was searching for the sail of an iceboat that had gone through the ice during the winter. The man operating the ice boat had drowned and the sail went to the bottom of the lake.

2013 General Council meeting viewed as productive

On September 28, 2013, the General Council branch of the Ho-Chunk Nation held its annual meeting at the Ho-Chunk Convention Center in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The General Council Agency organizes the annual meeting details. Quorum was reached early Saturday morning.

Reports were given by the four branches of the Ho-Chunk Nation government: Chief Judge of the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court, Jo Deen Lowe; Vice President of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Heather Cloud; President of the Ho-Chunk Nation, John Greendeer; and Chairman of the General Council Agency, Marvin Decorah all gave their reports.

Ho-Chunk tribal member, Scott Kingswan, also gave a presentation on his race team efforts.

Gerald Cleveland Sr., Marcus Lewis, and Robert Funmaker Jr. were all nominated to Chair the 2013 General Council meeting. Cleveland won the nomination. He named his wife, Iris Cleveland, as the secretary, and Maynard Rave Jr. as the sergeant at arms.

The Nation breaks ground for a new Law Enforcement Center

Ho-Chunk Nation took one more step to strengthen its sovereignty and the ability to enforce the laws of its people on its own tribal land.

Several Ho-Chunk Nation dignitaries handled shovels broke ground Friday for the new Ho-Chunk Law Enforcement Center on Friday, September 29, next to the present tribal court building along Highway 54, Black River Falls.

The proposed 13,000-square-foot center will be home for the Ho-Chunk Police Department.

"We've made history today," said Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer during the ceremony. "What we have here today is truly amazing. Sometimes it's hard to get shovel to earth. Today is for those folks who worked for this. I'm really glad there are proponents for change.

"It's the community – it's the people who pushed for this," Greendeer said. "They're trying to put us in charge of our own destiny."

The Nation officially formed its police department with the swearing-in ceremony for its first police chief three years ago, and it began regular patrols in Jackson County five months ago under Police Chief Earl Lemieux and Officer Zachary Quackenbush.

The idea for a sovereign Nation police department began about 30 years ago, when a Ho-Chunk law enforcement commission formed.



Turning earth for the newly-proposed Law Enforcement Center.

November

RedCloud featured in Wisconsin Veterans Museum’s Medal of Honor Exhibit

On Wednesday, November 3, 2012, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum opened its Medal of Honor Exhibit, which features Ho-Chunk tribal member, Corporal Mitchell RedCloud Jr., along with three other Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from Wisconsin. Mitchell RedCloud Jr.’s daughter, Annita RedCloud, helped unveil the Medal of Honor exhibit along with family members of Staff Sergeant Gerald Endl, Technical Sergeant Beauford Anderson, and Second Lieutenant Jerome Sudut.

Annita RedCloud was joined by her daughters Tris Harris and Cori Blaschke, and her grandchildren, Mitchell and Tristan Harris, and Kai Blaschke on this special day. Michael Telzrow, the Director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, gave an introduction, welcome, opening remarks, and introduced the family members who would help unveil the new exhibit.

The four Medals of Honor were enclosed in an air tight, square glass display case. Each side displayed the medals along with the name, rank, military division, place of birth, date of issue (of award), place (where award was won), and the date (it occurred).



Tris Harris, Trsitán YellowCloud, Mitchell Link, Annita RedCloud, Cori Blaschke, and Kai Blaschke flank the Mitchell RedCloud Jr. Medal of Honor exhibit.

Ho-Chunk officials travel to Madison to oppose sand mining bill

The developing issue of frac sand mining in the state even grew more contentious on Thursday, Oct. 24, when testimony was heard about Senate 349 at the state Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin.

The bill, authored by Sen. Tom Tiffany, R-Hazelhurst, and Rep. Joan Ballweg, R-Markesan, would retroactively nullify licensing agreements between towns, cities and counties with frac sand mining companies.

The bill also would allow the state to set the standards for the mining operations, not the local governments. Any monitoring of air and water quality would be the responsibility of the state, and the bill would prevent local governments from imposing any regulations on air and water for any industry, not just frac sand mining.

Testimony from opponents and proponents of the bill were heard before the Senate Workforce Development, Forestry, Mining and Revenue Committee. Those set to testify were Ho-Chunk President Jon Greendeer and Education Director Adrienne Thunder. Many other Ho-Chunk members were present for the hearings.

Two local state representatives who were vehemently opposed to the bill were Rep. Chris Danou, D-Trempealeau and Sen. Kathleen Vinehout, D-Alma.

“This bill has a broader reach than the frac sand industry,” Vinehout said. “It is really an anti-environmental bill that is cloaked in the garb of needing to create more frac sand jobs.”

Garvin awarded for work in archeology

George Garvin, Ho-Chunk member and Repatriation Researcher with the Ho-Chunk Nation Cultural Resources, was honored with an award on Thursday, November 7, at the Cartwright Center, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

He received the “2013 Distinguished Service Award,” which was given by the Mississippi Valley Archeological Center for Garvin’s work with the department.

“In all honesty, I was shocked when I was asked to accept this award,” Garvin said.

Ho-Chunk President Jon Greendeer gave the acceptance speech on Garvin’s behalf. Greendeer said that Garvin’s work is a difficult job and his service is unique.

Often archeological work is on an emergency basis, when a burial site has been uncovered during some type of construction.

“They’re not just bones,” Greendeer said. “They are family members.”

Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls sponsors Marine Corps Ball

On November 9, 2013, the Mitchell RedCloud Jr. Marine Corps League Detachment hosted the 238th Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Cranberry Lodge in Tomah, Wisconsin. This is the third birthday ball hosted by the RedCloud Detachment. Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls was a major sponsor of the birthday ball.

The first ceremony of the evening was the preparing the Marines and POW/ MIA tables. A single dinner setting is prepared for comrades gone but not forgotten. A candle is lit, and salt sprinkled on the plate in remembrance. Once the tables were prepared, the Chaplain offered his prayer.

The colors were presented and the Commandant of the Marine Corps message is read. Here’s the Commandant’s message:

For 238 years, The United States Marine Corps has proudly served our great

Nation with unfailing valor – bolstered by the enduring fortitude of our fellow Marines, our families, and our friends. This is why each year on November 10th, Marines from all generations gather together, in groups large and small, to celebrate the birthday of our Corps and to reflect on the proud legacy and warrior ethos we share. This is what unites us as Marines. From our first battle at New Providence to today in Afghanistan, Marines have always shown that they were made of tougher stuff – that when the enemy’s fire poured in from all angles, and the situation was grim, Marines unequivocally knew that their fellow Marines would stay behind their guns, fight courageously, and drive the enemy from the battlefield. We have always known hardship, fatigue, and pain... but we have never known what it is to lose a battle!

December

Ho-Chunk code talkers receive Congressional Gold Medals

On Wednesday November 20, 2013 about 30 tribal members ascended on the Nation’s Capitol for the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in honor of Native American Code Talkers. The Ho-Chunk Nation was joined by 32 other tribes from across the country as the ceremony recognized the Native warriors who served in WWI & WWII as code talkers.

Seven Ho-Chunk veterans served in WWII and one of their roles was to serve as a radio operator in the South Pacific. The heroic and dramatic contributions of these veterans were instrumental in driving back Axis forces across the Pacific during WWII. The Ho-Chunk veterans recognized include Bill Whitebear, Howard Littlejohn, Bill Mike, Jesse Mike, Clifford Blackdeer, Emanuel Thundercloud and Benjamin Winneshiek.

Ho-Chunk Code Talkers role

The term Code Talkers gets thrown around loosely without really grasping what that means. During WWII the Ho-Chunk code talkers all served in the US Army. During missions, they would communicate with one another using the Hoočąk language to avoid the messages being intercepted and decoded by the enemy. They sent hundreds of messages to one another without a single message ever being decoded by the enemy. This practice was instrumental in saving thousands of lives and protecting the integrity of missions that were carried on throughout the South Pacific.



Ho-Chunk Nation officials, family, and relatives of Code talkers to be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.

HCN donates to Children’s Learning Village Montessori Academy

The Ho-chunk Nation, represented by District 1 Legislator Gregg Blackdeer and President Jon Greendeer provided a check to the Children’s Learning Village Montessori Academy in the amount of \$177,826.92.

The check presentation was held during an open house of the facility on Thursday, December 5.

This amount, when added to what was donated to the child care center last year, adds up to \$250,000.

The donations will help the child care and preschool center with operational costs.

Blackdeer said the process of getting the child care business open and running has been a long one. He remembers when the idea was being considered and that his child might be able to attend. Now, several years later, his child is in third grade.

Children’s Learning Village Montessori Academy Board President Katie Funmaker said that the road to making the day care center a reality has been a long one, with many bumps along the way. The money donated is the revenue from the state gaming compact, which can be paid to the state or donated to a worthy recipient, she said.

Patricia Michaels weaves native culture into her fashion design

For Patricia Michaels, designing clothes are her passion. And to design clothes with the flair of her Native American perspective is an added benefit.

Native Fashion Designer Patricia Michaels is a Taos Pueblo from New Mexico, and her father was originally from Milwaukee. Most of her relatives from that side of the family still live in Wisconsin.

To help her business run smoothly, Patricia depends on the help and advice of her personal assistant, Amber Gauthier.

Amber is Ho-Chunk and was raised in Ho-Chunk Village in Baraboo. She still has many family members in Wisconsin, including her father who lives in Wittenberg. Amber also owns a house in Wittenberg. Her mother, Sally Ingram, lives in New Mexico.

Patricia recently was a contestant on the reality-television series “Project Runway.” Patricia was the first contestant on the show of Native American descent.

Patricia survived week after week during Project Runway’s 11th season, with Patricia integrating Native American designs into her work. The judges commented that her work was “something we’ve never seen before.”

**American Red Cross****BENEFIT CONCERT**

JAMES WESLEY

GET YOUR COUNTRY ON
at Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls
Saturday, January 25 when James Wesley
takes the stage with country favorites
like "Real", "Thank a Farmer" and
"Didn't I".

SATURDAY JAN. 25 | 7PM

DOORS OPEN 5:30PM | GENERAL ADMISSION

ADVANCED TICKET \$15

\$20 DAY OF SHOW

**\$5 WILL BE DONATED TO
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
FOR EVERY TICKET SOLD**

1-800-657-4621 | EXT 4060

HO-CHUNK GAMING
BLACK RIVER FALLS

WWW.HO-CHUNKGAMING.COM

Must be 21 or older to attend this event or play in the casino. Not responsible for lost or stolen tickets. No refunds. Ho-Chunk Gaming reserves the right to cancel or alter promotions at any time.

Wisconsin Badgers men’s basketball team off to best start since 1915 with the help of Ho-Chunk tribal member, Bronson Koenig


Marlon WhiteEagle
Editor

On Saturday, December 14, 2013, the Wisconsin Badger men’s basketball team defeated the Eastern Kentucky University Colonels, 86-61, to improve their season record to 12-0. This is the Badger’s best start in 98 years. Ho-Chunk tribal member, Bronson Koenig, is a part of the historic record as freshman for the Badger team.

Koenig, the son of Paul Koenig and Ethel Funmaker, has played in 11 of the 12 games so far this season. He didn’t see any minutes in the win over Florida. He did, however, coming into his element during the November 16 meeting with UW Green Bay, when he played 23 minutes, scored 7 points, 2 assists, and 1 block.

On the season, Koenig is averaging 16.2 minutes of play, 3.5 points per game, .531% in shooting, and .333% for shooting in three point range.

In a post game interview, Wisconsin Badger coach, Bo Ryan, said, “We got this team on tape, on DVD, and they’re a much better shooting team than this. So you got to give our guys credit for what they did defensively. It doesn’t keep me happy looking at 11 turnovers. The way they force people into turnovers, I thought where we really got some help is what Bronson Koenig did with the ball. He got us



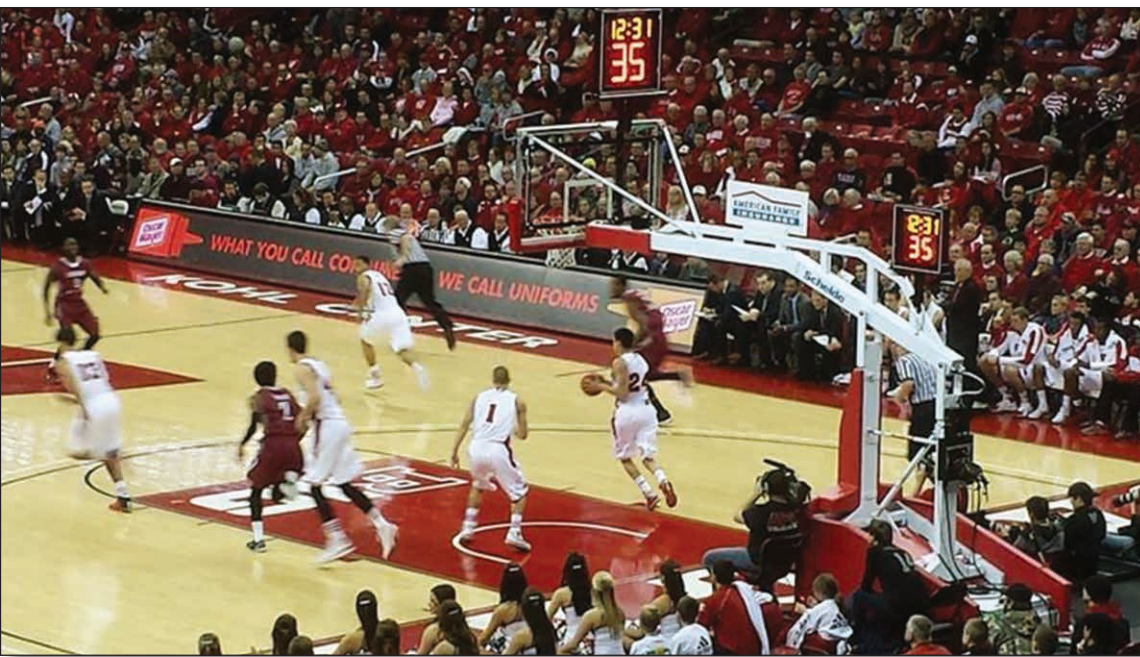
Ho-Chunk tribal member and Wisconsin Badger freshman guard, Bronson Koenig, address the media after a historic win over the Eastern Kentucky University Colonels.

out of a lot of jams. He found a lot of open people. I still don’t like the rule in the NCAA that if you hit a guy with the pass and he’s fouled and goes to the free throw line; you should get an assist. Because of those 17 points Nigel got at the free throw line, how many of those were a result of a pass from Bronson. I didn’t mean to rant about the rules, but, you know, there aren’t too many people who can breakdown what they do defensively, the way he did.”

When Coach Ryan was asked about playing a more up tempo offense with the young team, he said, “We’re going to take what the defensive gives us. We broke their defense down several times for wide open looks. You know, you shoot that kind of percentage from three (point range), you get to the free throw line that many times, you’re going to score more points simply because the clock stops on the fouls and you get the extra point for the three. So it means you’re going to have a higher point total. But the way we play hasn’t changed. They’re still opportunistic. We just try to get the best look we can.”

He continued, “I’m going to record me saying that and the next time I’m asked that question I’m just going to push the button. ‘We take what the defense gives us.’”

Another freshman making an impact is 6’ 7” forward Nigel Hayes. Hayes was the recipient of many passes from Koenig in the victory over Eastern Kentucky. He said, “Coach Paris always preaches to us, duck in, duck in. With Bronson (Koenig) and Ben (Brust), and everyone else driving around trying to beat the pressure, I was able to slip in underneath the defense. And if I caught it, I got fouled or I’d lay it up. As far as going to the free throw line, I’ve been working on my mechanics with coach and watching Bronson. We all know Bronson is



Bronson Koenig, 24, broke down the Eastern Kentucky defense as the Badgers are off to their all time best record.

a great shooter, as well as Ben. It paid dividends today in the game.”

Also in a post game interview, Bronson Koenig spoke about breaking down the Colonels defense. He said, “I thought we did a pretty good job of taking care of the ball. It’s not so much the pressure, it’s just getting by them and spreading the ball around to open players. They were helping off the lanes so much that we just kicked it to the open guy on the opposite side.” Senior guard, Ben Brust, added, “Our guards did a good job of finding gaps when they are there, because if you dribble into a tight space, that ball would get ripped out.”

Koenig was also asked about how much being accepted by the upper classmen helped getting off to his hot start. He said, “It’s helped a lot. Some of them have taking me under their wing and just giving me a lot of tips on how to play under Coach Ryan. Not to be afraid, and be aggressive in the game. Yea, it’s helped a lot.”

Bronson Koenig has a lot of gifts on and off the court. Koenig was a highly touted high school player from La Crosse Aquinas, who was offered scholarships from Duke, North Carolina, and Kansas. He was the Wisconsin’s AP Player of the Year in his final season playing high school basketball.

He was ranked fourteenth national among all point guards in the U.S. by Rivals.com. He has a coach looking at NCAA rules to get him more assists and teammates giving him free advice about working with a meticulous coach. The Ho-Chunk Nation can look on with pride as one of its own continues to making a name for his self playing with the No. 4 ranked Wisconsin Badgers.

Walking out of the Kohl Center, a gentleman went out of his way to say, “Bronson is a great player, and very proud of his heritage.” Those are nice words to hear.

Koenig’s message to young Ho-Chunk basketball players is to “keep your head straight. Never give up. Keep the ball in your hands all the time. Play as much basketball as you can, all the time. If you love the game and everything, then you can do what I did and make it to play D1 basketball.”

Go Badgers! Good luck and continued success to Bronson for the rest of the season.

The Badger next game will be at 1 p.m. on December 28 at the Kohl Center against Prairie View A&M

Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa holds Toy & Food Drive for local charities

Submitted by Lynette LeGarde, Senior Manager-PR/Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa/Wittenberg

Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa is holding a Toy & Food Drive for the month of December. Guests can bring in a value of \$10 in Toys and/or Food, present the receipts to the Rewards Club and receive \$10 in Rewards Play. The toys received will go to the local area Toys For Tots organization and food collected will be donated to the South Wood

Emergency Pantry Shelf.

Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa had a live remote with radio station 95.5 WIFC’s Mike Mathers on Friday, December 13, 2013 from 10am-12pm to promote the Toy & Food Drive. Representatives from the local charities were present to help collect Toys and Food for the Drive. The representatives in attendance included Julie Mancl (Toys For Tots), LCpl Jake Engel and Karlene Dillingham (South Wood Emergency Pantry Shelf).

(L to R): Mike Mathers (WIFC), Julie Mancl (Toys For Tots), LCpl Jake Engel (Toys For Tots), Lynette LeGarde (Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa), Karlene Dillingham (SWEPS Food Pantry)

